was one of his early admkers only confirmed this impression.
Even when the Nazi vote increased enormously, still few envisaged the possibility of his becoming Chancellor; even when he had become Chancellor, it was confidently assumed that he was no more than a puppet figure, easily manipulated by forces behind the scenes, variously described as Prussian militarists, big industrialists, and the owners of large estates reluctant to have their lands sequestered. His alliance with the Nationalists, it was felt, would inevitably lead to his becoming their prisoner; armament manufacturers had financed him, and now he must execute their orders. Conservatives, perhaps remembering MacDonald, drew comfort from the thought that one who had been so poor and neglected would surely be awed by the company of the great, and overwhelmed when he found himself with all that money could buy at his disposal; Liberals built their hopes on the fifteen years of representative government, proportional representation, civil liberty, and other benefits which Germany had enjoyed under the Weimar Republic, whose loss, they assured themselves, would not for long be tolerated; Socialists and Communists kept up their spirits by insisting that Fascism, of which the Nazi regime was one of several manifestations, represented capitalism's last desperate attempt to prevent the proletariat's inevitable seizure of power;[5] and those of indeterminate political convictions, or none at all, over pints of beer and in railway carriages looked knowing, and remarked that no one survived who put the Jews against him,

and that in any case Germany had no money.

To the general amazement, none of these comforting hypotheses was substantiated by events. The nationalists whose

[5] For instance, Mr. John Strachey—"Fascism is the organised expression of the determination of the landlords to stick at nothing in order to stay in power. How can one ever reason with men who do not grasp this most basic fact in the world situation to-day?' (Quoted in *Who Is For Liberty?* by Hugh Ross-Williamson.) 'This most basic fact", while it may seem irrefutable to Mr. Strachey, would puzzle German landlords, who might readily admit that they had stuck at nothing, but would require a lot of convincing that they had stayed in power.